

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06202 011034Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /021 W

-----031093 012008Z /64

R 010340Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 9344

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PINR, AF, SA

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN NAMES A NEW AMBASSADOR TO JIDDAH

1. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "KABUL TIMES" ANNOUNCED ON JULY 29 THAT THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) HAD RECEIVED AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MOHAMMAD AKBAR PARWANI AS AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. PARWANI'S CAREER IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE STRETCHES BACK TO THE NINETEEN-TWENTIES. THE HIGHEST POSITIONS HE HAD OBTAINED TO DATE WERE AS A DIVISION CHIEF IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1939, AS CONSUL IN KARACHI (1940-1942), AND AS CONSUL IN QUETTA (1951-1956). IN ADDITION TO HIS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, HE HELD CIVIL SERVICE POSTS AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SUGAR AND PETROLEUM INSTITUTE (1949-1951), PRESIDENT OF TRANSPORTATION (1956), AND AS EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF THE HOTELS JOINT STOCK COMPANY (1964). HE HAS ALSO SERVED ON COMMISSIONS FOR REVISING THE BORDER DEMARCATION WITH IRAN. PARWANI HAS NOT HELD ANY OFFICIAL POSITION SINCE 1973. HE IS MARRIED, WITH TWO DAUGHTERS, AND SPEAKS ENGLISH, TURKISH, AND URDU.
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PAGE 02 KABUL 06202 011034Z

3. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT, THE SAUDI ABABIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT IT TOOK TEN WEEKS FOR JIDDA TO GIVE AGREEMENT. THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR DOES NOT THINK PARWANI IS A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA), BUT THINKS HE SUMPATHIZES WITH THE REFORMIST POSSIBILITIES OF THE REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: BORN IN 1911, PARWANI IS CERTAINLY THE OLDEST INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED TO AN AMBASSADORSHIP BY THE NEW REGIME. INDEED, HIS SERVICE STARTED IN THE REIGN OF KING AMANULLAH. THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS BACKGROUND TO SUGGEST LEFTIST SYMPATHIES, OR TO INDICATE THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT IS PART OF THE EXILE OF PARHAMISTS TO FOREIGN CAPITALS. INDEED, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DRA WOULD SELECT A CONFIRMED LEFTIST TO GO TO JIDDA. PARWANI PROBABLY RECEIVED THIS POSITION BECAUSE OF HIS NONCONTROVERSIAL BACKGROUND, AND POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE NEW REGIME DOES NOT POSSESS A WEALTH OF FOREIGN SERVICE TALENT FROM WHICH TO MAKE A DIFFERENT SELECTION.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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SAS ID: 1580959
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